



CITY OF MOUNT VERNON, N.Y.

Mayor Office

SHAWYN PATTERSON-HOWARD, MPA
Mayor

City Hall, One Roosevelt Square
Mount Vernon, NY, 10550
(914) 665-2362 – Fax: (914) 665-6173

JUAN PEREZ
Commissioner Management Services

January 14, 2026

VIA EMAIL:

Honorable City Council Members
City of Mount Vernon
1 Roosevelt Square
Mount Vernon, New York 10550

RE: Confirmation of Emergency Procurement — Enhanced Email Protection Service (Microsoft 365 Identity Threat Detection & Response) for city council meeting to be held on January 28th, 2026.

Honorable Council members:

The Office/Department of Management Services respectfully requests that the City Council confirm and ratify the emergency procurement of an enhanced email protection and identity threat detection service for the City's Microsoft 365 environment. This action was taken in December 2025 in response to active and ongoing intrusion attempts into the City's email system and was necessary to protect the continuity of City operations and the security of sensitive communications.

At the time of the event, threat activity was confirmed as active and escalating. The vendor notified the City of suspicious and malicious behavior impacting our environment and was prepared to begin immediate remediation/containment and monitoring support. Because email is a mission-critical system used by every department, any delay would have increased the likelihood of account compromise, disruption to municipal operations, and potential exposure of confidential information.

Given the urgency of the situation, Management Services proceeded on an emergency basis in the best interest of the City. Prior to authorizing the service, I consulted with key stakeholders including the Mayor's Office and the Comptroller's Office, and we agreed immediate action was warranted due to the real-time nature of the threat and the importance of protecting City systems.

Summary of the Service/Actions:

- Who: Hi-Link Technology Group LLC
- What: Microsoft 365 Identity and Threat Detection & Response (24x7 SOC monitoring and response support)
- When: Procured in December 2025 during active intrusion into Office 365 environment
- Scope: City-wide coverage across the City's Microsoft 365 email and identity systems
- Cost / Term: \$14,880.00 for 620 users at \$24/user for the coverage period October 2025 – September 2026 (including a trial month in September 2025). Funds will be used from A1680.216 (Applications and Services).

This service provides continuous monitoring and rapid-response capability to detect and mitigate suspicious login activity, account compromise attempts, and advanced email-based threats. It strengthens the City's ability to

"The Jewel of Westchester"



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defend critical systems against evolving cyber risks that increasingly target municipal governments.

Your confirmation of this emergency procurement supports the City's commitment to safeguarding essential infrastructure and maintaining uninterrupted service delivery to our residents.

I look forward to your favorable response and am available to discuss any questions or provide additional information you may require.

Thank you.
Sincerely,
Juan Perez

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Perez".

Commissioner Management Services
cc: Mayors Office, Comptroller